



News from the Cultural Resources Management,
Tribal Liaison Office, & Environmental Programs of the
Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs,
Alaska Army National Guard

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2nd Quarter 2011, 1 June

Greetings,

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the enclosed Communications Links page that comes with the newsletter. We have been receiving plenty of responses, and learning about your new Environmental Coordinators, Elders Office members, Cultural Coordinators, latest administrators and others that work hard with you to serve the villages.

The summer is here, and there is plenty to do. Members of the DMVA environmental team will be all over the state doing their best to keep the armories safe and clean. We are looking forward to meeting you when we all have a chance. We know you will be busy, too, and wish you the best during resource and subsistence collection and harvesting, mending the things that need attention, activities with the youth, and big and small travels that you may be taking.

Shenandoah in Alaska: the Last Chapter of the Civil War

Alaska was still a part of Russia during those turbulent years from 1861 to 1865 when the United States fought the many bloody battles that came to be known as the Civil War. Folks from all over the U.S. are reflecting on the meaning of the Civil War in this year that marks the 150th anniversary of the first shots fired in that conflict. Places like Ft. Sumter, Antietam, Gettysburg, and Ford's Theatre will figure prominently in those discussions. Far west of there, and way north of the Mason-Dixon line, Little Diomed was the scene of the last skirmishes of that mighty War Between the States.

While the Confederate armies were doing their best to defend against Sherman's march through the southeast, they were also trying to disrupt the North's superior economic and industrial strength. An unusual and little-known part of the South's strategy was to upset the North's whaling ships around the world. They secured an unusual 1,160 ton screw steamer from the British that had the ability to lower its smokestack, and to alter its masts and sails so it could change its appearance at sea. The Confederates named her the Shenandoah. The Shenandoah set about burning Union ships that were sailing in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and then headed for the northern Pacific.

The ship was fast and powerful with long range, accurate cannons. Union whaling ships were no match, and after a year of sailing around the world, the Shenandoah was responsible for capturing or sinking 38 Union whaling ships. They took around 1,000 prisoners, and no Confederate soldier or Union whaler lost a life in the mission. The Confederacy surrendered on April 8, 1865, but that news was slow in reaching the captain and crew of the Shenandoah that was along the western shores of Alaska a continent away from Appomattox. During the week of June 22 through 28, 1965 the Shenandoah sank or captured 12 Union ships near Little Diomed.

Some of the Union captains that were captured showed newspapers that heralded the end of the Civil War, but the Shenandoah's crew decided to fight on. Finally the Shenandoah fled the Pacific Ocean. They disguised their ship by painting it and stowing away the cannons, and headed for safe haven in England. Four months and 27,000 miles later they docked in Liverpool.

The success of the raids on the Union whaling ships had caused insurance rates for the newly-reunited States to go sky high, and many whalers went out of business. The British were able to buy American ships for a fraction of what they were worth. The American shipping industry had been steadily growing prior to the Civil War, but it stagnated afterwards, and the British remained dominant on the oceans for another 50 years.



This story was taken from two articles that were recently published in the Anchorage Daily News. To read those in full, please take a look at <http://www.adn.com/2011/04/16/1813998/civil-wars-last-shots-were-fired.html#ixzz1M0ktInZ3> and <http://www.adn.com/2011/04/16/1813710/civil-war-came-to-alaska-after.html#ixzz1M0kPVrdf>. Those articles were based on a book by Lynn Schooler of Juneau called, *"The Last Shot: The Incredible Story of the C.S.S. Shenandoah and the True Conclusion of the American Civil War"* published by Ecco/HarperCollins.

Dept. of Military & Veterans' Affairs Employee: Aaran Ritchens

The DMVA, Environmental staff serves the Alaska Army National Guard by helping to protect the natural and cultural environment, while the Guard members are doing the same for us. If a picture is worth a thousand words then a good map is also. Most people relate quickly to graphic information. The Alaska Army National Guard is very fortunate to have a modern GIS system to help glue the organization together. The GIS function is unique and so is our GIS Program Manager, Aaron Richins.

He is a 29 year Alaska Sourdough and Alaska Army nation Guard retiree. After growing up in a small Utah town, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and ROTC Army Commission from the University of Utah. In 1981 he attended Infantry Officer Basic course at Fort Benning Georgia and was then assigned to Fort Richardson. After four years he left active duty to become a full time Bureau of Land Management Cartographer, and part time National Guardsman.



Shortly after 9-11-2001 Aaron was called-up for six months of active duty to support the “Noble Eagle” Airport Security Mission. It was during this period that he worked with the Environmental Section to develop Noble Eagle maps. As soon as he was released from active duty Aaron joined the Environmental team full time as the GIS Program Manager. His GIS duties include managing the multimillion dollar GEO-database, WEB map development, and map making in support of the Alaska Army National Guard. In the near future he plans to expand WEB mapping to make more information available to more managers and guardsmen. During his free time, Aaron can be found fishing, hiking, biking and gardening.

Alaska National Guard and Coast Guard rescue two from plane crash

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—The Alaska Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard successfully rescued two people from a small plane crash near Cape Suckling, approximately 53 miles southeast of Cordova, this afternoon.

Shortly after 11 am, the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center received satellite information from an emergency locator transmitter that went off indicating possible distress. Shortly thereafter, a call from the SPOT dispatch center, a personal satellite locator system, relayed information regarding the plane crash as well.

“Everything worked like it was supposed to after the crash occurred,” said Tech. Sgt. Gail Paculba, of the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. “Because we had the satellite information from the emergency locator transmitter onboard the plane and the confirmation from SPOT, we were able to get rescue assets to the crash site quickly. It was a joint mission between the Alaska Air National Guard and Coast Guard that worked seamlessly as well”

A Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter that was in Cordova went to rescue the two people onboard the crashed Piper PA-18 Super Cub. The two individuals were reported to have minor injuries and were flown to Cordova.

An Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 from the 211th Rescue Squadron with pararescuemen on board from the 212th Rescue Squadron headed to Cordova from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to pick up the two plane crash survivors and bring them to Anchorage for medical treatment.

Reports indicate the PA-18 flight originated in Yakutat, but its destination is unknown. The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center awarded two saves to the Alaska Air National Guard’s 211th Rescue Squadron and the Coast Guard for this mission.

Since January 2010, the Alaska National Guard has saved more than 50 lives in Alaska.

Communication Links

What are your preferred methods of contact?	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone
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Offices

Mailing address	
Primary email	
Phone number(s)	Fax number

Do you have other staff that you would like us to include in our consultation for environmental and cultural issues?

Office	Name and contact information
Tribal Administrator	
Environmental Coordinator	
Realty	
Elders Office	
Other	

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Armory Spotlight: Akiachak

The new National Guard armory building in Akiachak, a village of 627 on the west bank of the Kuskokwim River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, was built in 1992 and is 30 by 50 feet. The building is a prefabricated, steel frame structure with metal siding painted tan and dark brown metal roofing. An enclosed hallway connects to the two older armory building. Each building contains an office, supply room, arms storage, a composting toilet, and drill area.



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